

Stefan BOEHM et al.

R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By

Benoît Castel

Benoît Castel
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,041
Customer No. 00466
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

November 23, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1-or
2,

characterized in that the triggering event is derived from
a switch-on process performed on the medical examination
device (1).

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1-to-3, characterized in that the triggering
event is derived from a calibration process performed on
the medical examination device (1).

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1-to-4, characterized in that the triggering
event is generated at a defined point in time before,
during or after an image acquisition procedure, in
particular before, during or after a patient examination or
a scan.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1-to-5, characterized in that the triggering
event is generated by a counting process.

8. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claims~~claim 1-to-7, characterized in that the triggering
event is generated by a time measuring process.

9. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claimsclaim 1 to 8~~, characterized in that after the defect
determination (63), a correction process (67) is
automatically triggered if a defective pixel was detected.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9
~~or 10~~,
characterized in that in connection with the defect
determination after carrying out a first correction process
in which already known image defects are corrected, the
corrected image is analyzed in order to determine further
defects or defects that are still present, which are
corrected in a second correction process.

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claimsclaim 11 to 13~~, characterized in that in the context
of the analysis, the pixel-related signals are compared
with one or more threshold values.

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claimsclaim 11 to 14~~, characterized in that the analysis
result is used to generate a new defect map (53), which
describes the detected defect or defects that is or are new
or still present, and which is used to effect the
correction in the second correction process.

16. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~
~~claimsclaim 11 to 15~~, characterized in that in the context

Stefan BOEHM et al.

of the first correction process, the image is corrected using an old defect map (50), which describes already known defects.

17. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claimsclaim 15 and 16~~, characterized in that the old defect map (50) is updated using the new defect map (53).

19. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claimsclaim 11 to 18~~, characterized in that a flat-fielding correction of the image is effected in the context of the first correction process.

20. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claimsclaim 1 to 19~~, characterized in that after the defect determination (63), a message is automatically sent via a data link (47) to a service device (49) if a defective pixel was detected.

21. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claimsclaim 1~~, characterized in that a pixel is detected as defective if the assigned signal falls below a minimum value.

22. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claimsclaim 1~~, characterized in that a pixel is detected as defective if the noise in the assigned signal exceeds a maximum value.

23. (Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the defect determination (63) is carried out on a stored image.

26. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in claim 24 ~~or 25~~, characterized in that the detection device (31) can detect a pixel as defective if the noise in the assigned signal exceeds a maximum value.

27. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 24 ~~to 26~~, characterized by a correction device (41) for automatically eliminating a defective pixel that has possibly been detected, in which case the correction device (41) is connected to the detection device (31) and can be activated by the latter if a defective pixel is detected.

31. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 28 ~~to 30~~, characterized in that the analysis means (42) is designed for comparing the pixel-related signals with one or more threshold values for the purpose of determining a defect.

32. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 28 ~~to 31~~, characterized in that the analysis means (42) or the detection device (31) is designed for generating a new defect map (53), which describes the detected defect or defects that is or are new

Stefan BOEHM et al.

or still present, and the correction device (41) is designed for correcting the image in the second correction process using the new defect map (53).

33. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to~~claim 32, characterized in that the correction device (41) is designed for correcting the image using an old defect map (50), which describes already known defects, in the context of the first correction process.

34. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~claims 32 and~~claim 33, characterized in that the detection device (31) or the correction device (41) is designed for updating the old defect map (50) using the new defect map (53).

35. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~claim 28 ~~to~~ 34, characterized in that the correction device (41) is designed for carrying out a flat-fielding correction of the image in the context of the first correction process.

36. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~claim 24 ~~to~~ 35, characterized in that the detection device (31) has a data interface (45) for sending a message to a service device (49), in which case the message can be sent automatically by the detection device (31) if a defective pixel is detected.

Stefan BOEHM et al.

37. (Amended) The examination device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 24 to 36, characterized in that the detection device (31) is connected to an image memory (40), from which it is possible to retrieve an image which was generated by the image system (10) at an earlier point in time.

442247 37600000